

REMARKS

Claim 3 is amended herein to recite a planographic printing plate precursor. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the second full paragraph at page 5 of the specification. No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-14 and 21-25 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sakurai et al (JP 9-274321 and its machine-assisted English translation provided by the Japanese Patent Office).

Applicants respectfully submit that Sakurai et al does not disclose, teach or suggest the presently claimed invention as recited in amended claim 3.

Without conceding the merits of the rejection, claim 3 is amended herein to recite a planographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having disposed thereon a photosensitive layer that contains a polymerizable composition comprising a binder polymer having a repeating unit represented by formula (I) and a repeating unit having an amide group; an infrared absorbent; a polymerization initiator; and a polymerizable compound.

The Examiner relies on Sakurai et al as teaching a curable composition containing a copolymer CP-8, dipentaerythritol hexaacrylate and a pigment dispersion containing carbon black, which is considered as meeting the element of an infrared absorbent.

The copolymer CP-8 is shown in paragraph [0079] of Sakurai et al and is reproduced in the Action on page 3. The Examiner states that the second repeating unit of CP-8 is within the scope of present formula (I) and the first repeating unit teaches the present repeating unit having an amide group. The Examiner also relies on Sakurai et al as teaching adding a polymerization initiator to the polymerizable compound in paragraph [0173].

Applicants respectfully submit that Sakurai et al uses copolymer CP-8 in the release accelerating layer and the curable layer of sample 106 ([0191], [0194] and Table 1 of Sakurai et al). Accordingly, Sakurai et al does not disclose the use of CP-8 in a photosensitive layer. For at least this reason, Sakurai et al does not anticipate the present invention.

Further, the curable layer of sample 106 does not include a polymerization initiator. In fact, Sakurai et al specifically teaches away from the use of a polymerization initiator in the curable layer as can be seen from paragraphs [0150] and [0160]. Specifically, paragraph [0160] of Sakurai et al is translated below:

[160] [Photosensitive Layer] The photosensitive layer includes a silver halide, and generates radicals when exposed imagewise and thermally developed. The generated radicals diffuse, penetrate into the curable layer, and cure the curable layer. The thickness of the photosensitive layer is preferably from 0.1 to 20 μm , more preferably from 0.5 to 10 μm .

In Sakurai et al, since radicals are supplied from the photosensitive layer to the curable layer, the presence of photopolymerization initiator in the curable layer is unnecessary. Indeed, the presence of a photopolymerization initiator in the curable layer may cause uncontrolled polymerization, which impairs imagewise curing. Therefore, Sakurai et al does not teach or

suggest the presently claimed invention, which includes a polymerizable compound and a polymerization initiator in the same layer. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Sakurai et al with a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the present invention. Thus, the present invention is not rendered obvious by Sakurai et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §102 rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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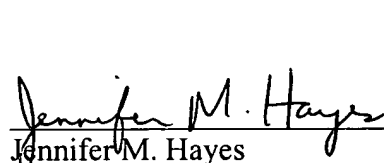
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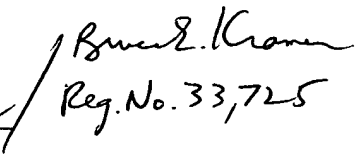
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